(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Although there are complexities in processing Venezuelan crude in Indian refineries owing to heavy bottom, high sulphur content and higher freight as compared to alternative crudes.available from the Gulf and elsewhere, Venezuelan crude is on the BPCL approved list and would be imported, subject to economic viability. The range of Venezuelan crudes and the possibilities of dilution are under examination. Swap arrangements are also possible. An important component of energy security is the diversification of imports. It is in this context that crude oil imports from Venezuela are being considered, in addition to present and potential sources of supply.

Export of petroleum products

†2883. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of petroleum products during the first 11 months of 2004-05 has shown 24.8 per cent increase as compared to the first 11 months of the last year;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the details of the petroleum products which have been exported alongwith the quantity thereof; and

(d) the average sale price rate determined with respect to each product?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The export of petroleum products during the first 11 months of 2004-05 has shown an increase of 24.9% in volume terms as compared to the same period of last year. While 12,927 TMT of petroleum products were exported during the first 11 months of 2003-04, the export during the same period of 2004-05 amounted to 16,139 TMT.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The details are as under:

Name of Products	April'04-Feb'05 (2004-05) (Prov.) thousand metric tonnes	Average Export Price Rs./MT
LPG	69	15,913
Motor Spirit	2,567	19,035
Naphtha	2,731	16,976
HSD	6,531	15,689
Lubes/LOBS	1	67,209
' Fuel Oil	1,608	8,323
VGO	98	11,723
SKO/ATF	2,175	17,264
SKO	11	20,695
Reformate	307	16,882
Bitumen	33	6,776
White Oil/Paraffin	9	44,592

Foreign investment in oil sector

†2884. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several countries in the world have offered for capital investment in oil sector in India;

(b) if so, the names of these countries and the content of the offers made by each country; and

(c) the decision Government have taken so far with regard to these offers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The upstream and refining segments of the oil

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.